



CHURCH
PARTNERSHIP
SCHEME

Food Security in Burkina Faso ODE and Reseau MARP February 2010 Update

As both Reseau MARP and ODE are working on food security in northern Burkina Faso the updates will cover both partners, but please be assured that your money is going to the project you signed up to support.

In September, four members of Christian Aid's UK staff visited Burkina Faso and met with our partners ODE and Reseau MARP. They were also able to meet some of the local people who have been benefiting from your support. This update features an interview with one farmer from Passore province who has received help from ODE.



Christian Aid/Matt Grady

An Interview with Komboigo Alphonse, a 44 year old farmer who has benefited from the work of ODE:

Tell us about your family: I have three wives and nine children. Some are living with me, some are living with relatives. My oldest child is 14. My youngest is 3. My children don't work in the fields, but my wives work with me.

What difference has ODE made to your life? Formerly I was always a farmer, but with no success in terms of harvest. Then ODE came here and I learnt from them the techniques to increase my harvest. Previously, I didn't get the quantity of crop which I get now with ODE's support. If I have problems now, I can take my excess crop and sell it.

What do you grow?: I grow beans in addition to millet. The bean seeds I have used are given to me by ODE. They asked me to grow both improved seeds and traditional seeds so that we can compare the difference in crop yield. On this land, you can see local millet seed grown on a demi-lune¹ pattern. It is an experiment to see how well this works. Beans are being grown of both varieties (traditional and improved). By the end of September the local beans will be ready. The improved seed beans are almost ready now. I use organic fertilizer on my land.

We have tried to train and inform other farmers about the techniques we have learned from ODE, so that their crops can be improved too. Some other farmers have come to visit my land to see for themselves how it's done.

¹ Demi-lune is a method of growing crops that reduces the loss of soil and water by planting in semi permanent basins.

How has the climate changed here? This year we experienced flooding in my area for the first time in my lifetime. As a farmer, my major problem is that of rain. We rely on rain very strongly to be able to grow our food.

What other problems do you face? When we are sick we have no means of seeking treatment. There is no health centre close to us – but even if it was close by the result would be the same because we have no money for medicines.

Other progress in the projects

ODE in Passore Province

- 110 wells have now been dug - 11 still remain to complete.
- 16 market gardens have been installed and vegetable production is underway –onions, potatoes and tomatoes are the main crops
- Farmers have been supplied with over 800 watering cans to water their crops
- Farmers have been trained in the use of fertilizers and pesticides.



Christian Aid/Matt Grady

Reseau Marp in Zondoma Province

- 58 groups have received training in the production of beans. This training resulted in a doubling in the production of beans in 2009.
- Volunteers were selected for the drilling of two market garden wells in the village of Rondolga and two other wells in the village of Ridimbo.
- Over 120 farmers were assisted in the growing of rice which will reduce food vulnerability for themselves and their families
- Nearly 2,000 chickens were distributed to farmers

The Website

The Church Partnership web-pages are being updated and are now home to some introductory information and film clips from projects that are being supported through the scheme. You can visit the pages at www.christian-aid.org/churchpartnerships.

There is also a “hidden” page just for churches and groups who are giving to the church partnership scheme. It can be found at <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/fundraise/church-partnerships/resources/updates.aspx>. Here you can find PDFs of all the materials you have been sent plus past and current updates. We will continue to add to them so do bookmark the page – it is just for you so will not show up on the search function.

Organising a Talk

If your church or group would like someone from Christian Aid to come and give a talk please contact your local area office (see www.christianaid.org.uk/aboutus/contact for their details).

If your church has any queries – please contact Max Khanna on mkhanna@christian-aid.org and 020 8123 7523

Christian Aid – London: PO Box 100, SE1 7RT. **Belfast:** PO Box 150, BT96AE. **Cardiff:** PO Box 6955, CF15 5AA. **Edinburgh:** PO Box 11, EH1 0BR. **Dublin:** 17 Clanwilliam Terrace, Dublin 2. www.christianaid.org.uk
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